

Utah Department of Health, Division of Health Care Financing

Notice of Privacy Rights

This notice describes how medical information about you may be used and disclosed and how you may access this information. Please review it carefully.
Effective: 04/14/2003

The Utah Department of Health, Division of Health Care Financing (DHCF) is committed to protecting your medical information. DHCF is required by law to maintain the privacy of your medical information, provide this notice to you, and abide by the terms of this notice.

Confidentiality Practices and Uses

DHCF may use your health information for conducting our business. Examples:

Treatment - to appropriately determine approvals or denials of your medical treatment. For example, DHCF health care professionals may review your treatment plan by your health care provider for medical necessity if a Medicaid recipient or for program listed services if a Primary Care Network (PCN) recipient, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) recipient or Utah's Premium Partnership for Health Insurance (UPP) enrollee.

Payment - to determine your eligibility in the Medicaid, PCN, CHIP, or UPP program and make payment to your health care provider. For example, your health care provider may send claims for payment to DHCF for medical services provided to you, if appropriate.

Health Care Operations - to evaluate the performance of a health plan or a health care provider. For example, DHCF contracts with consultants who review the records of hospitals and other organizations to determine the quality of care you received.

Informational Purposes - to give you helpful information such as health plan choices, program benefit updates, free medical exams and consumer protection information.

Your Individual Rights

You have the right to:

Request restrictions on how we use and share your health information. We will consider all requests for restrictions carefully but are not required to agree to any restriction.

Request that we use a specific telephone number or address to communicate with you.

Inspect and copy your health information, including medical and billing records. Fees may apply. Under limited circumstances, we may deny you access to a portion of your health information and you may request a review of the denial.*

Request corrections or additions to your health information.*

Request an accounting of certain disclosures of your health information made by us. The accounting does not include disclosures made for treatment, payment, and health care operations and some disclosures required by law. Your request must state the period of time desired for the accounting, which must be within the six years prior to your request and exclude dates prior to April 14, 2003. The first accounting is free but a fee will apply if more than one request is made in a 12 month period.*

Request a paper copy of this notice even if you agree to receive it electronically.

*Must be made in writing. Contact the DHCF Privacy Officer for the appropriate form for your request.

Sharing Your Health Information

There are limited situations when we are permitted or required to disclose health information without your signed authorization. These situations include activities necessary to administer the Medicaid, PCN, CHIP and UPP programs and the following:

For public health purposes such as reporting communicable diseases, work-related illnesses, or other diseases and injuries permitted by law; reporting births and deaths; and reporting reactions to drugs and problems with medical devices.

To protect victims of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence.

For health oversight activities such as investigations, audits, and inspections.

For lawsuits and similar proceedings.

When otherwise required by law.

When requested by law enforcement as required by law or court order.

To coroners, medical examiners, and funeral directors.

For organ and tissue donation.

For research approved by our review process under strict federal guidelines.

To reduce or prevent a serious threat to public health and safety.

For workers' compensation or other similar programs if you are injured at work.

For specialized government functions such as intelligence and national security.

All other uses and disclosures, not described in this notice, require your signed authorization. You may revoke your authorization at any time with a written statement.

Our Privacy Responsibilities

DHCF is required by law to:

Maintain the privacy of your health information.

Provide this notice that describes the ways we may use and share your health information.

Follow the terms of the notice currently in effect.

We reserve the right to make changes to this notice at any time and make the new privacy practices effective for all information we maintain. Current notices will be posted in DHCF offices and on our website, www.health.utah.gov/hipaa. You may also request a copy of any notice from your DHCF Privacy Officer listed below:

Contact Us

If you would like further information about your privacy rights, are concerned that your privacy rights have been violated, or disagree with a decision that we made about access to your health information, Medicaid, PCN, CHIP and UPP recipients should contact the DHCF Privacy Officer, Craig Devashrayee, 801-538-6641; 288 North 1460 West, 3rd Floor; PO Box 143102, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-3102; cdevashrayee@utah.gov.

We will investigate all complaints and will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint. You may also file a written complaint with the Office of Civil Rights, 200 Independence Avenue, S.W. Room 509F HHH Bldg, Washington, DC 20201